

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** September 7, 2001

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on August 31, 2001

**FROM:** William E. Muno, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Thomas V. Skinner  
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich  
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Emergency Response (Fire), Chemical Connection, Inc., Chicago, Illinois**

On August 29, 2001, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) Sam Borries and Walter Nied responded to the Chemical Connection, Inc., fire located at 1030 East 87<sup>th</sup> Street, Chicago, Illinois. The company manufactures oil and water based petroleum rust preventative products. A fire of unknown origin began early in the morning of August 29, 2001, completely engulfing the company's storage facility and neighboring Rite Way construction company. Responding organizations included the Chicago Fire Department, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, the Chicago Department of Environment, and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Approximately 1,800 drums of various petroleum hydrocarbons, storage tanks of methyl esters and naphthalenic compounds, a biocide compound, and dibasic acid were involved in the fire. U.S. EPA's Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) contractor responded with the U.S. EPA OSCs to collect samples from the fire. The samples will be used to determine the nature and characteristics of the remaining waste materials. An environmental contractor was hired by Chemical Connection, Inc., to control site runoff and remediate

the surrounding impacted areas. Cleanup negotiations are ongoing with the responsible party.

Contacts: Sam Borries (312-353-2886)  
Wally Nied (312-886-4466)

**Administrative Complaint Filed, Union Electric Company (also known as AmerenUE), Venice, Illinois**

On August 27, 2001, U.S. EPA filed an Administrative Complaint against Union Electric Company (also known as AmerenUE), Venice, Illinois. The Complaint alleges violations of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 103. On December 27, 2000, at 10:00 am, the facility had a 5,973 pound release of ferric sulfate. Ferric sulfate is a hazardous substance under CERCLA with a reportable quantity of 1,000 pounds. Union Electric Company called the National Response Center on December 27, 2000, at 2:15 pm. This is the second violation under CERCLA that the Agency has alleged in an administrative complaint. The previous complaint was resolved with a Consent Agreement and Final Order on November 13, 1997. Union Electric Company is in compliance with Sections 311 and 312 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). The proposed penalty in the complaint is \$35,065.05. Union Electric Company will have 30 days to respond to the Complaint.

Contact: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)

**Final Inspection, Reilly Tar & Chemical Corp. (Dover Plant) Superfund Site, Dover, Ohio**

On August 23, 2001, a final inspection was conducted at the Reilly Tar & Chemical Corp. (Dover Plant) Superfund site in Dover, Ohio. An Ohio Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) subtitle D solid waste cap, a passive collection trench, a new drainage ditch along the eastern boundary of the site, 30 inches of soil cover, and an additional 1-foot thick layer of common borrow were installed last Summer. No problems with the capping materials were apparent; vegetation is generally well established, particularly on side slopes; and, no erosion problems exist. The collection trench and treatment system are in operation, problems with residual tar collection are being addressed, and contaminated groundwater is being discharged to the local publicly owned treatment works (POTW). A long-term monitoring program is underway. As part of the March 31, 1997, Record of Decision (ROD), a revised ecological risk assessment

will be developed and submitted to U.S. EPA to evaluate risks to benthic species at and downstream of a Tuscarawas River outfall. Site related risks were inconclusive when the ecological risk assessment was performed in 1993. Any remaining ecological risks in the Tuscarawas River will be evaluated prior to the first five-year review.

Contact: Tom Short (312-353-8826)

#### **OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS**

##### **Visitors from Japan, Grosse Ile, Michigan**

On August 28, 2001, a group of 30 professors of the Environmental Protection Association of Private Universities in Japan visited the U.S. EPA's Grosse Ile, Michigan, office. One hundred and thirty-three universities and 45 corporations are registered in the association. Dr. Russel Kreis and Jason El-Zein conducted a 2-hour presentation on the U.S. EPA structure, organization, and mission. The presentation also included other topics, such as: the status of hazardous waste generation in the USA, or Michigan, along with type and contents of waste; standard values of chemical substances in hazardous wastes; the flow of hazardous waste from its generation to disposal facilities; status of generation and treatment of waste, along with method of its disposal; ratio of incineration and landfill wastes; case studies of water and soil pollution by waste, along with measures against pollution; disposal of wastes generated by educational and research institutions; and, disposal of medical waste.

Feedback from the visitors indicated the presentation was well received.

Contact: Jason El-Zein (734-692-7661)

#### **TRAINING/CONFERENCES**

##### **Duluth/Superior Port Area Committee Oil Spill Response Exercise, Duluth, Minnesota**

From August 28-30, 2001, an industry-led Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) exercise was held in Duluth, Minnesota. Murphy Oil USA agreed to stage a spill as an accident that occurred during the fueling of a vessel at Murphy's Duluth Marine Terminal. The PREP drill involved the simulated release

of approximately 370 barrels of #6 fuel oil and 155 barrels of diesel fuel into the Duluth Inner Harbor. The oil spill response exercise was jointly planned, conducted, and evaluated by numerous agencies and organizations, including the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. EPA, Fon-du-Lac Tribal Nation, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Department of Emergency Management, St. Louis County, City of Duluth, OSI Environmental, USS Great Lakes Fleet, and Douglas County (Wisconsin). Activities exercised during the drill included notifications, unified command formation, inter-agency communications, formation of a joint information center, natural resource trustee involvement, protection strategies, oil collection, oiled wildlife rehabilitation, and appropriate waste disposal. Protection boom was deployed by several organizations in multiple locations, and oil collection equipment was also deployed and demonstrated. Over 150 personnel participated in the PREP exercise. On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Michelle Jaster was a member of the Design Team for the exercise and assisted on the Exercise Control Team during the actual exercise. OSC Fred Micke represented U.S. EPA as part of the Unified Command during the exercise.

Contact: Michelle Jaster (734-692-7683)

### **STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK**

#### **Letter of Thanks from U.S. Coast Guard, Stylecraft Products Fire, Detroit, Michigan**

A letter from the 9<sup>th</sup> Coast Guard District was received thanking On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) Jim Augustyn, Kurt Grunert, and Ralph Dollhopf and U.S. EPA for their assistance and outstanding support during the fire at the Stylecraft Products, Inc., facility in Detroit, Michigan. OSCs Augustyn, Grunert, and Dollhopf helped to secure the area and evacuate local residents, as well as provide air monitoring support.

Contact: Jason El-Zein (734-692-7663)

#### **Thanks (Brenda Jones), Spatial Analyst and Decision Assistance Training Class, U.S. EPA Region 9, San Francisco, California**

On August 31, 2001, an email of thanks was sent to Lawrence Schmitt, Section Chief of Remedial Response Section 1, from Harold Ball, Technical Support Team Leader, Superfund Division, Region 9, who wrote the following about Brenda Jones:

"I just wanted to express my appreciation for your support in allowing Brenda Jones of your staff to bring the Spatial Analysis and Decision Assistance (SADA) training class to Region 9 this week. Quite a number of folks in my group (R9 Superfund Technical Support Team) took advantage of the class and were extremely impressed not only by the potential utility of SADA for mapping site data, risk, and areas of concern, but also by its state of development. For many of us, SADA appears to be "the greatest thing since sliced bread.

The considerable capabilities of this tool were very effectively introduced to us by Brenda and her colleagues, Tom Purucher and Robert Stewart. Their combined knowledge and enthusiasm in conjunction with SADA made this training class one of the most exciting opportunities I have participated in for some time.

Thank you for supporting Brenda and the SADA technology transfer. You folks in Region 5 really have something there. Thanks for sharing!"

Contact: Brenda Jones (312-886-7188)

cc: Barry Breen (OECA)  
Steve Luftig (OSWER)  
Larry Reed (OERR)  
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)  
Craig Beasley (OSWER)  
Michael Shapiro (OSWER)  
Sylvia Lowrance (OECA)  
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators  
Division/Office Directors  
ORA State Coordinators  
Regional Team Managers